United Nations E/2008/SR.28

Economic and Social Council

Provisional

15 September 2008

Original: English

Substantive session for 2008
Operational activities segment

Provisional summary record (partial)* of the 28th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 11 July 2008, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. Dapkiunas (Vice-President) ..... (Belarus)

Contents

Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation (*continued*)

(b) Reports of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Food Programme

* No summary record was prepared for the rest of the meeting. A panel discussion was conducted.

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In the absence of Mr. Mérorès (Haiti), Mr. Dapkiunas (Belarus), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation (*continued*)

(b) Reports of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme/the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Food Programme (E/2007/35, E/2008/5, E/2008/6-E/ICEF/2008/3 and Corr.1, E/2008/14, E/2008/34 (Part I) and Add.1, E/2008/36 and E/2008/L.8)

1. **The President** said that dialogue with the executive heads of the United Nations funds and programmes was an important mechanism for furthering the role of the Council as the principal body to coordinate the economic, social, humanitarian and related work of the United Nations system. It was a crucial moment for the Council to assist in guiding the work of the funds and programmes in implementing the policies defined by the General Assembly.

2. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the World Food Programme (WFP) accounted for more than 60 per cent of the expenditure on operational activities for development, and were present in most programme countries. Their work had a great impact on trends regarding the contribution of the United Nations system to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

3. Discussions in both the high-level and operational activities segments had drawn attention to the numerous challenges and opportunities facing development cooperation as a whole, and to the urgency of moving decisively into action. The key issues were meeting official development assistance (ODA) targets, improving the quality and allocation of aid and building greater coherence in economic and development cooperation policies.

4. It was hoped that the forthcoming panel discussion on the implementation of the MDGs would bring the implications of the guidance provided by the most recent triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development (A/RES/62/208) into perspective.

The discussion covered in the summary record ended at 10.10 a.m.

A panel discussion on the theme "Implementation of the Millennium Development Goals in the context of current challenges" followed. The panel was chaired by Mr. Andrei Dapkiunas (Belarus), Vice-President of the Council, and moderated by Mr. Sha Zukang, Under-Secretary-General, Economic and Social Affairs. The panellists were Mr. Kemal Dervis, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme; Ms. Ann M. Veneman, Executive Director, United Nations Children's Fund; Ms. Thoraya Obaid, Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund; and Mr. John Powell, Deputy Executive Director, World Food Programme.